Rehabilitation of tribal groups

†4398. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tribal groups are facing the rehabilitation problem in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Because of ethnic violence in Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Dhubri districts of Assam during 1996 and 1998, some people from tribal communities of these areas were rendered homeless. During 1996-97 to 1998-99, Rs. 25.00 crores was released to Govt. of Assam for rehabilitation of such refugee families. A further amount of Rs. 35.29 crores was released to Govt. of Assam for this purpose during the period 2000-01 to 2004-2005. These refugee families are also being provided Gratuitous Relief by the State Government which is reimbursed under the Scheme of Security Related Expenditure. In 1997, some Bru (Reang) tribals of Mizoram had migrated to Tripura due to attacks on them by Mizo villagers. Ministry of Home Affairs has been extending grants-in-aid to Govt. of Tripura for maintenance of Bru (Reang) refugees who are sheltered in relief camps in Tripura. During 2004-05, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended grants-in-aid of Rs. 11.00 crores to Govt. of Tripura for mainenance of Bru (Reang) refugees in Tripura.

Losses due to heavy snowfall in J&K and HP

4399. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of life and property caused by heavy snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) what steps are proposed by Government to effectively meet such crisis in future and for timely relief and restoration of communcation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) 283 Civilians besides 14 ITPB, 6 BRO (GREF) personnel in Jammu & Kashmir and 5 civilians in Himachal Pradesh lost their lives due to recent snowfall and avalanches. In Jammu & Kashmir, 28,787 Houses were fully partially damaged. 91,780 hectares of cropped area, 1,03,100 hectares of horticulture were damaged besides there was also a loss to sericulture